

## **AGRICULTURAL COMMISSION MEETING**

**December 9, 2008**

**First Floor Meeting Room, Town Hall**

### **Minutes**

**Members Present:** Ruth Hazzard, Jaime Tidlund, Pauline Lannon, Pat Wagner, Bob Saul Sarah Swartz, and John Ingram

**Members Absent:** Casey Steinberg, Linda Hess

**Non-Members Present:** Leslie Cox

### **Minutes**

Review of 11/18/2008 Minutes, made note of Diana Stein being select board liaison and not staff liaison.

Voted to approve minutes with one change.

Unanimously passed

### **Election of Officers**

Bob Saul made a motion to resign as chair and nominate Ruth Hazzard as new chair

Motion was seconded and unanimously approved

A motion was made to nominate Sarah Swartz to be the new vice chair.

Motion was seconded and unanimously approved.

A motion was made to nominate Jaime Tidlund as the clerk

Motion was seconded and unanimously approved

### **Attendance**

Discussion followed regarding low attendance, a suggestion to help with this was more advanced notice for meetings. Also discussed the idea of having a non-voting educational liaison to help aide in working with the schools to buy local.

### **Homer Cows**

Note: Homer Cows, an active Amherst farmer and former member of the Agricultural Commission as well as the conservation commission, passed away.

### **Kendrick Park Farm Market**

Leslie Cox gave an update on Kendrick Park farm market idea. Copies of the Public Market subcommittee report were reviewed and discussed.

The following motion was made regarding this topic:

Move that Ruth Hazzard attend the December 18<sup>th</sup>, 2008 Kendrick park committee meeting representing the Ag Com in support of the Public Market subcommittee report. A letter would be drafted expressing points we discussed at the meeting, such as the long waiting list for the farmers market, and that we are pushing for a multi-use building, as well as the fact that this market would be in addition to the one in place. Also noting that Amherst is and agricultural community and at a time of economic distress it would be beneficial to support local agricultural.

Motion seconded and unanimously approved.

Minutes submitted by J. Tidlund

Approved at the March 10, 2009 Agricultural Commission meeting.

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### **Farmers Forum**

General discussion on farmers forum, a suggestion to get notes from the previous farmers forum and review them at the January meeting so we can discuss and address any issues that may still need to be taken care of. A date of March 3<sup>rd</sup>, 2009 was picked with a location to be determined, with the possibility of the Hess Family barn being used. Sarah Swartz will be organizing the food. An agenda for the forum was set, having two topics one being the October 2009 farm festival and September 250<sup>th</sup> Parade with Pat saying a few words, and the second being the Amherst Farm Guide, Bob was going to contact Pete Westover about attending.

### **Farm Festival 2009**

General discussion followed on the October 3<sup>rd</sup>, 2009 Farm Festival. Pat mentioned that Harpo is willing to help and that she mentioned something to Ronnie Boxbaum. Pauline noted that Atkins could cater the BBQ on the common later in the day. The group talked about everyone taking on an assignment the following is was decided thus far.

Bob – Farm tours and Adult games

Jaime – Equipment and animal displays as well as kids and adult games

John – Media/press and the senior van

Pauline - BBQ

Sarah – Food donations

### **Miscellaneous**

Pat mentioned we should readdress the UMASS coal pollution and Taylor brook because of some new developments, such as a new salt shed and rain runoff.

A brief discussion about local food in the schools was brought up. John mentioned after speaking with Donna at Mark's Meadow that farmers need to be certified in order to sell to the schools. We discussed how to get the word to farms about what need to be done in order to become certified.

### **January 13<sup>th</sup>, 2009 Meeting Agenda Items**

- (1) Ways to think about using school curriculum to educate the public and kids about buying local products. Maybe invite school superintendents and new food company to a meeting.
- (2) Farm Forum